1955

JULY

TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

IN THIS ISSUE

- Air-Conditioned Village
- Four TSA Members Named FAIA
- Edward L. Wilson Elected Secretary AIA

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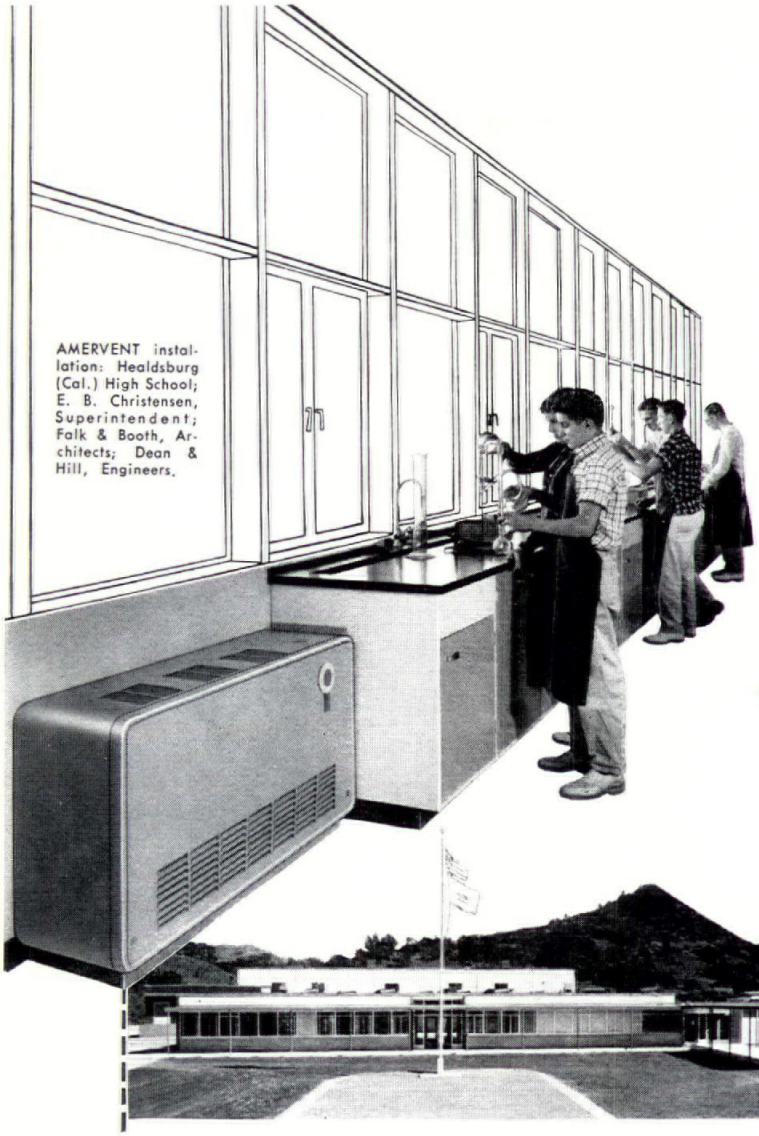

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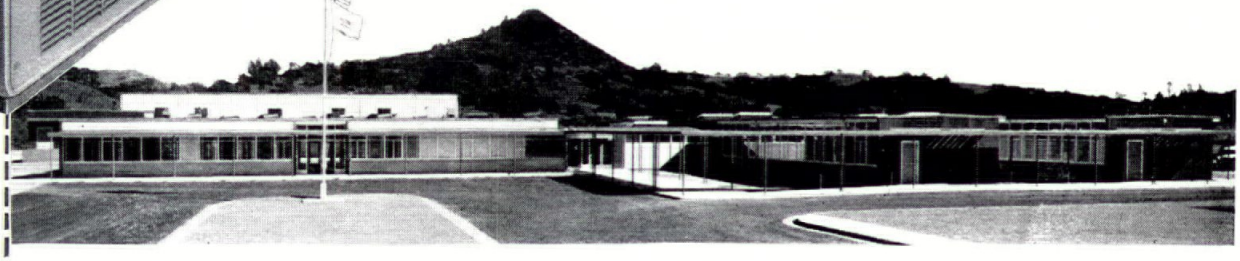

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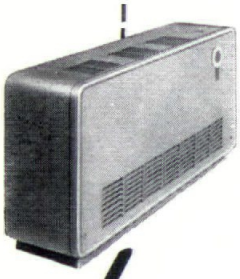

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THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

VOLUME 6 JULY, 1955 NUMBER 3

INSIDE THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

Editorials 3
Air-Conditioned Village 7
Four Named FAIA 9
Preliminary ACV Report 10
Barr Named To State Board 11

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 16—Summer meeting, Executive Board, TSA, Commodore Perry Hotel, Austin.

November 2-4—16th annual convention, TSA, Shamrock Hotel, Houston.

This Month

An editorial and series of articles examine the Air-Conditioned Village at Austin and ACV research findings to date.

At Minneapolis, TSA is honored by the selection of four of its members as Fellows of the AIA, and by the election of Edward L. Wilson, TSA-AIA of Fort Worth as AIA secretary.

Howard R. Barr, TSA-AIA, has been named to the State Board of Plumbing Examiners.

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

Academy Rubber Co. 15
American Air Filter Co., Inc. 2
Cameron Lumber Co. 14
Chrysler Airtemp Corp. ..... Cover II
Chupik Wood Mfg. Co., Inc 15
Clay Products Association 8
Dezendorf Marble Co. 15
Finger Contract 16
Folmar, R. H. Co. 12
Great Southern Supply Co. 4
Portland Cement Association 6
Professional Directory 16
Texas Bitulithic Co. 11
Texas Bureau for Lathing & Plastering 10
Texas Quarries, Inc. ..... Cover III
Texeramics Inc. 13
Uvalde Rock Asphalt Co. ..... Cover IV
White's Uvalde Mines 1
Zurn Continental Services, Inc. 14

The President's Letter

By
Grayson Gill
TSA-AIA
President,
Texas Society
of Architects

There are some practicing architects in the State of Texas who are not members of the American Institute of Architects and who, therefore, cannot participate in the activities of the Institute's regional organization, the Texas Society of Architects, and its local chapters.

In the April, 1952, issue of THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS was published an informal talk by Edwin Batemen Morris, entitled, "Why the American Institute of Architects?" Mr. Morris' remarks were addressed to the architectural students of the University of Florida, who were concerned as to the direction and intent of the Institute. In his talk, Mr. Morris listed the qualifications essential for an architect: "from the head—diligence, perseverance, an understanding of aesthetics, and an understanding of the practical things of construction; and from the heart—inspiration." These attributes can be best attained through membership in a professional organization.

The attainment of the objectives of the American Institute of Architects is fostered by annual meetings at the national and regional level and by monthly meetings at the local chapter level. At these meetings, and in other professional activities, TSA-AIA members have primarily in mind the following AIA objectives: (1) to promote the aesthetic, scientific and practical efficiency of the profession; (2) to advance the science and art of planning and building by advancing the standards of architectural education, training and practice; (3) to co-ordinate the building industry and the profession of architecture; (4) to insure the advancement of the living standards of our people through their improved environment; and (5) to make the profession of ever-increasing service to society."

Continued on Page 15

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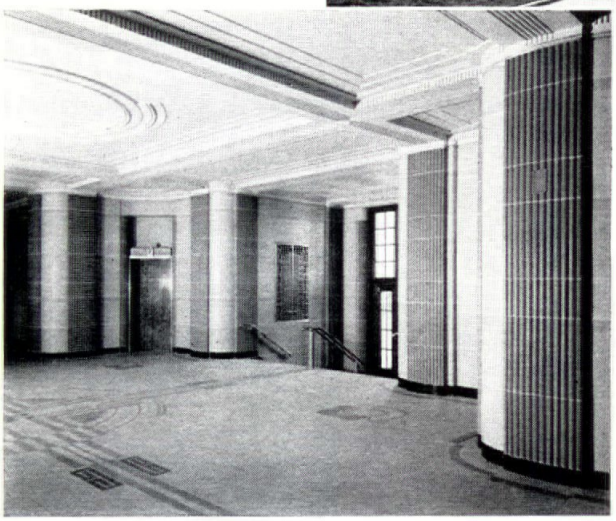

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Why Hire An Architect?

One of the very noticeable trends in the past 10 years has been the tremendous increase in the number of commercial buildings — small, medium, and large — which are built with the full use of the architect's professional skill and experience.

Below are excerpts from a letter written by a Texas client to his architect. We think it tells a lot about why such an overwhelming percentage of commercial buildings of all sizes, varieties and uses are being constructed from first preliminary schematic drawings to final inspection with full architectural services:

"Prior to the actual planning of our new building we had been thinking for ten to fifteen years in terms of constructing a building which would be designed for more efficient operation. During that period we considered designing and constructing the building without the assistance of an architect or general contractor, thinking that we might be able to save a good deal of money.

"When we finally realized that the time was at hand for us to make a decision regarding the construction of a building for ourselves, we felt that the project would be too large for us to undertake without the assistance of people with the proper "know how." Still there was the question of whether or not an architect should be employed. As one problem came right on top of another, we finally decided it would be necessary to employ the services of an architect. We naturally sought out the man we felt was best qualified to do a good job for us.

"As you know, we went through about two years of planning in which your firm helped us immeasurably in getting our own ideas down on a practical, workable basis. You brought out a number of thoughts which were extremely important and of which we had very little knowledge.

"After this period of planning, we were satisfied that the plan itself was the best for our individual business that could be developed and as you know, there were very few changes made during the time of construction.

"You will remember that I asked you how much of my time would be required during the period of construction and you replied that after the contract was let that I could forget about it until the building was finished. I did just exactly that, and did so with confidence, feeling that the plan would be carried out and that my participation during the period of construction would slow the thing down and accomplish nothing.

"Your supervision of the work as it progressed was worth your entire fee in our opinion. We believe that this phase of your work alone was one of the most important factors in the construction of a sound building.

"After this experience, I realize that our thinking that we might do the job without the services of an architect was nothing but wistful thinking. And I am convinced that if we had proceeded along those lines this building would not be the sound investment which we believe it to be."

Air Conditioned Village

Several articles in the current issue discuss Air-Conditioned Village, the unique project in Austin which was set up by the National Association of Home Builders and cooperating agencies, groups and individuals, for research in the applicability of air-conditioning to the low- or medium-priced home.

Final research findings are still being studied, but it is already apparent that ACV has served an extremely important purpose, while proving that air-conditioning is practical on a basis of installation and operating costs. Just as important, there are clear indications that those living in air-conditioned homes lead healthier, more comfortable, and more productive lives.

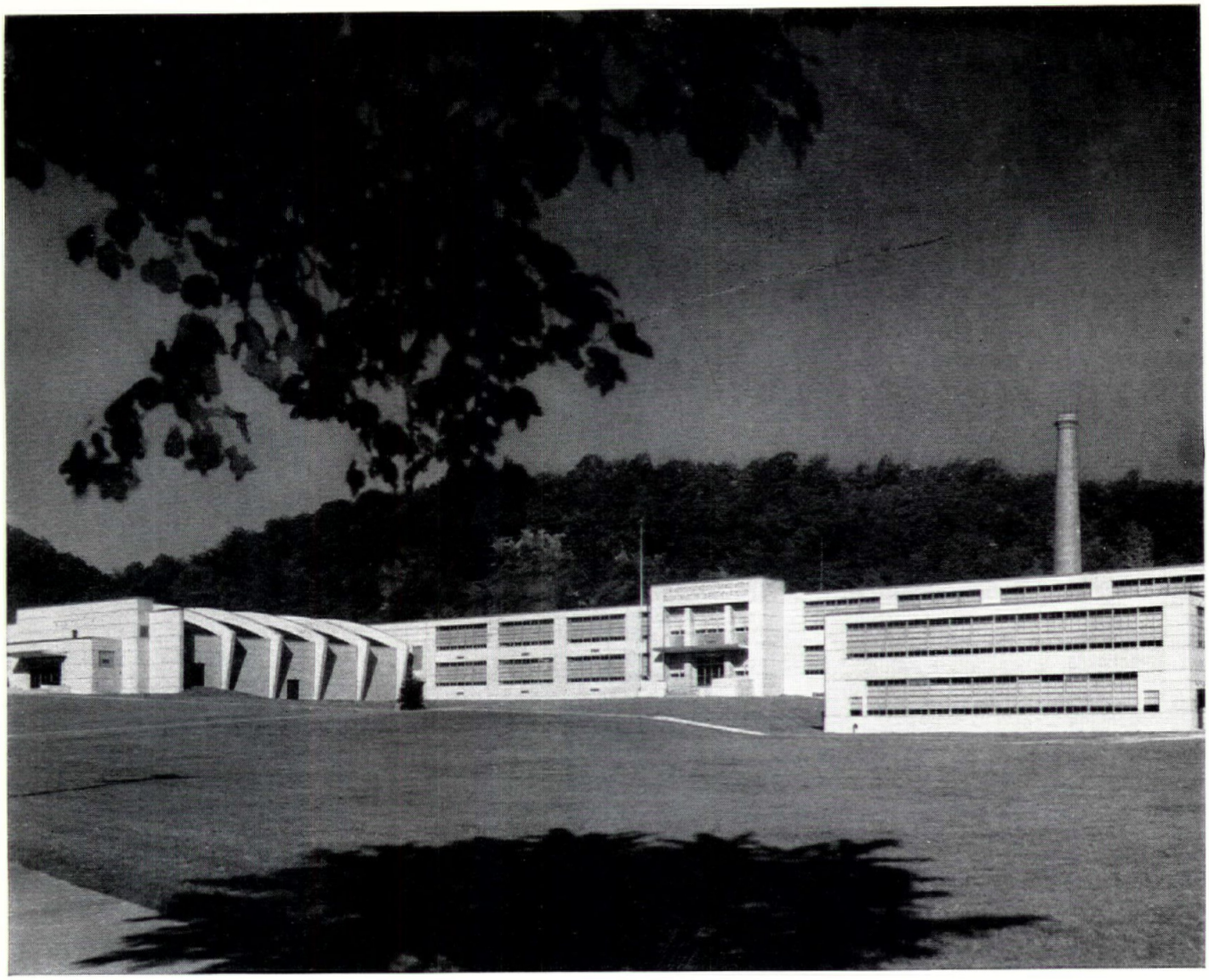
We congratulate all who were connected with this worthwhile project, now being examined across the U.S. and even abroad by specialists in many fiels. TSA members, who also participated in ACV, will be among those watching for the release of final reports on this project, which can be of vital importance in architectural design.

Four New Fellows, AIA

The TEXAS ARCHITECT salutes four members of TSA-AIA who were signally honored at the recent AIA convention in Minneapolis by selection as Fellows of the American Institute of Architects.

These men, named because of their professional competence, are Donald Barthelme, Karl Kamrath, and Talbott Wilson of Houston, and Professor Ernest Langford of College Station, head of the Department of Architecture at Texas A & M.

Fellowship in the AIA is recognized as one of the highest honors in the architectural profession. The election of four additional members of TAS to this select group pays tribute both to their own ability and to the state in which they practice.



Outstanding school built at "astonishingly low cost" with Architectural Concrete

The beautiful Theodore Roosevelt High School in Williamsport, Pa. is considered by many to be the best school building built in the entire area since January 1, 1946.

In commenting on the interest in this school, architect D. H. Grootenboer, A.I.A., said:

"While I take deep satisfaction in the great interest and many favorable comments about one of my buildings, I must point out that architectural concrete made it possible for me to design a modern, completely fire-resistive building at the astonishingly low cost of $0.763 per cu. ft. when fire-resistive buildings of other construction were costing from 10 to 40 cents more per cu. ft."

Fire resistance and low cost are only two of the outstanding characteristics that make architectural concrete the choice of more and more architects. Architectural concrete also offers great durability and strength. It requires little maintenance and delivers ***low-annual-cost*** service.

While it is an ideal material for modern schools architectural concrete is equally adaptable to hospitals, apartments, churches, factories, stores, offices and public buildings.

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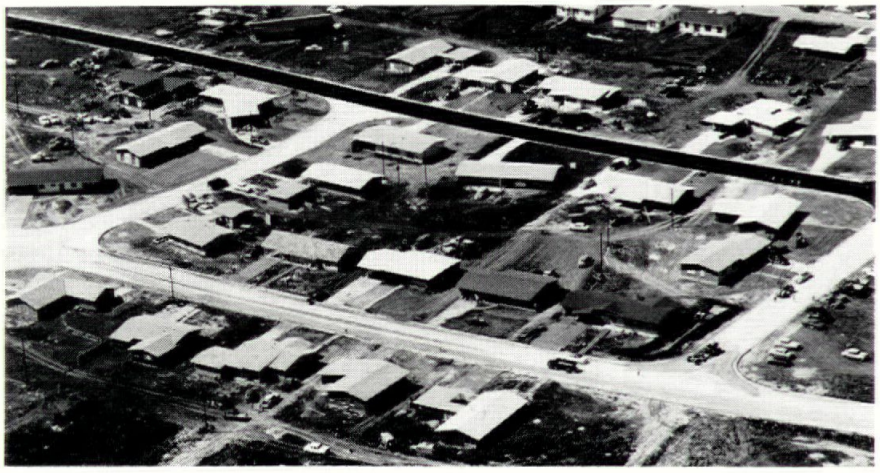
Air-Conditioned Village Yields Key Research Data

The world's first completely air-conditioned residential project, Air-Conditioned Village in Austin, a private industry research project to determine the effect of manufactured weather on the budget, health and home life of American families, has been attracting world-wide attention in many fields.

The research village, located in the northwestern suburbs of Austin, consists of 22 new homes of varying design and structure, each equipped with a different type of year-round air conditioning and heating system. It was begun in the early summer of 1954, but final information on extensive research in the homes is due soon.

The homes were studied by research scientists for an entire year, under actual living conditions, in an effort to find the answers to the many technical, medical and psychological problems involved in the use of controlled weather in medium and low-priced housing.



An aerial view of "Air-Conditioned Village" in Austin, before completion of final detail work and landscaping on 22 homes. The unique project has attracted international attention, and important research facts in many fields are emerging from "ACV" studies. (Aerial photo by Mears Photography, Austin).

Sold Under Special Agreements

Twenty-two selected families moved into the village in the summer of 1954. The homes were sold at prices starting as low as $12,000, plus land costs, under special agreements providing for the cooperation of each family.

The unique experiment was sponsored by the Research Institute of the National Association of Home Builders, in cooperation with more than 50 other organizations and companies, including the Air-Conditioning and Refrigerating Institute, and the National Warm Air Heating and Air-Conditioning Association. Austin was picked as the site for this project because of the heat and cold experienced there.

Important Data Produced

The research project has produced important data on the cost and operating efficiency of home air conditioning that will help to make this extra comfort available to the great mass market of home buyers in the middle- and low-income brackets.

The research homes, each containing about 1200 square feet of living space, were built by 22 members of the Austin Home Builders Association. Many of them were designed by architects who are TSA members. All are modern, single-level houses with three bedrooms, two or 1 ½ baths, and two-car garages or carports. All have been completely landscaped.

Masonry, wood and combinations of both were used in construction of the village, and a wide range of design and architectural detail was employed to provide as much data as possible for the research investigators.

Electronic Instruments Used

A number of the new homes have built-in electronic instruments to keep an hour-by hour record of temperature changes within the houses during the experimental period. Careful records were also kept on the effect of conditioned air on materials and fabrics. Special mobile laboratories mounted on trailer-trucks made periodic tours of the village to test homes not equipped with electronic devices.

In addition, medical technicians and psychologists made a continuing study of the physical health and mental attitudes of the families living in the research village. One important question on which it is believed significant data was obtained concerns whether filtered air at controlled temperatures reduces the frequency of colds and relieves hay fever sufferers and victims of other allergies.

The research teams studied in great detail of question how much it costs to operate a year-round air conditioning system, and what effect various building materials have.

Among areas studied were the heat gain-and-loss factors of different colored paints used on the outside of an air conditioned home, what colors and textures provide the best roofing surface, and the effect of shading devices such as awnings and curtains.

The Federal Housing Administration and the Veterans Administration are carefully studying the project results in order to obtain accurate cost data on air-conditioned homes.

Participating Organizations

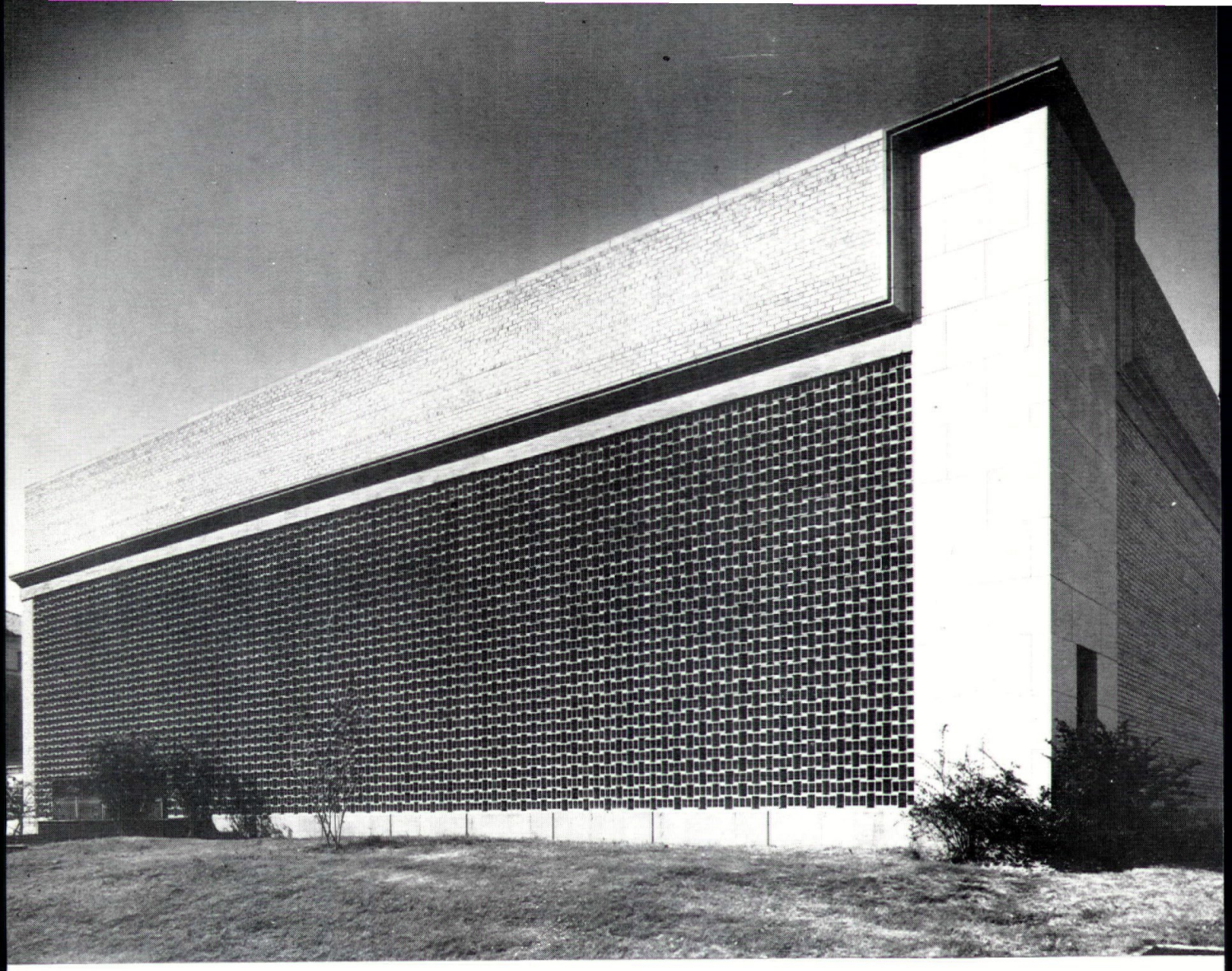
The preliminary and final reports on ACV are based on data collected by the following organizations:

Operating cost data: A joint committee of three Texas utility companies under the direction of Walter Blair, vice president of Texas Power and Lighting Company; City of Austin, Water and Light Division; University of Texas, Electrical Engineering Department.

Technical data: National Warm Air Heating and Air Conditioning Association, Mobile Laboratory; University of Texas, Mechanical Engineering Department.

Medical data: Members of Travis County Medical Association.

The members of the Austin Home Builders Association who built the homes are: Jack Andrewartha, Frank Barron, Walter Carrington, Alford Davis, Kenneth Flagg, B. N. Holman, G. E. Maxwell, S. R. Sheppard, Shirley White, H. T. Baker, W. A. Burns, E. L. Carruthers, First Austin Investment Co., C. B. Hibbetts, Wallace Mayfield, Andrew Patton, R. L. Struhall and Leland Wilson.



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TSA Delegation Active at AIA Convention; Edward L. Wilson Named Secretary

The TSA delegation to the 87th annual convention of the American Institute of Architects, totalling 43 TSA members from various parts of the state, played an important part in the four-day meeting which ended in Minneapolis June 24.

"Designing For The Community" was the keynote for the convention, which met in Minneapolis just 39 years after the AIA had held its fiftieth annual meeting at the same Hotel Radisson in 1916.

Edward L. Wilson, TSA-AIA of Fort Worth was elected national secretary at the convention, to replace George Bain Cummings of Binghampton, N. Y. Mr. Cummings was elected AIA president to succeed Clair W. Ditchy of Detroit. Mr. Wilson, long prominent in TSA affairs, a former TSA president and regional director of the AIA, takes one of the key posts within the national organization.

Albert S. Golemon of Houston, regional director from TSA to the AIA, outlined another year of significant progress in the Texas area in his report to the AIA board of directors.

Moderator on Seminar

David C. Baer of Houston, editor of the TEXAS ARCHITECT and chairman of the national AIA committee on office practice, was moderator for one of the convention's key seminars, based on more efficient office and job management.

Other TSA delegates attended the convention as members of AIA committees and as members of related groups including the American Architectural Foundation and the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

A highlight of the convention for the Texas delegation was the announcement that four members of TSA had been named to the College of Fellows. These men, Donald Barthelme, Karl Kamrath, and Talbott Wilson of Houston, and Professor Ernest Langford of the Texas A&M College Department of Architecture, were installed at the annual banquet. Details of their new honor are given in a separate story.

Many of the TSA delegates continued on vacations in the Midwest, North, and East after attending the Minneapolis convention.

AIA 87th Annual Convention,

Left to Right: David C. Baer, Houston; Regional Director Albert S. Golemon, Houston; Edward L. Wilson, Fort Worth, AIA secretary; George Bain Cummings, Binghamton, N. Y., AIA president.

Donald Barthelme

Karl Kamrath

Ernest Langford

Talbott Wilson

Barthelme, Kamrath, Langford, Wilson Elevated to Fellowship in AIA

Four members of TSA were signally honored at the annual banquet of the American Institute of Architects convention in Minneapolis June 23, when they were invested as members of the College of Fellows of the AIA.

The new Fellows of the AIA are three Houstonians, Donald Barthelme, Karl Kamrath, and Talbott Wilson, and Professor Ernest Langford of the Department of Architecture, Texas A&M College.

All of the men were cited for excellence in design. They have won many separate awards in TSA and national competitions.

Design Awards Listed

Mr. Barthelme heads the Houston firm of Donald Barthelme & Associates. His design of the West Columbia Elementary School, in 1953, gained national and international awards.

Mr. Kamrath is a partner in the Houston firm of MacKie & Kamrath. Among recent work for which he and his firm have been acclaimed is the design of the M. D. Anderson Hospital and the University of Texas Dental School in the Texas Medical Center in Houston.

Mr. Wilson is a partner in the Houston firm of Wilson, Morris & Crain. The firm won top honors in the "Texas Architecture— 1954" competition of TSA for their design of the Pieter A. Cramerus home in Houston.

Professor Langford is known widely as head of the Texas A&M Department of architecture and in addition to his accomplishments in the field of education has consistently won many awards.

"Residential Air-Conditioning Here To Stay," Cole Tells ASRE In Preliminary Village Report

Ned Cole, Austin architect and home builder who is chairman of the National Association of Home Builders' air-conditioning committee and manager of the Air Conditioned Village research project, made the following preliminary report on the Village to a conference of the American Association of Refrigeration Engineers:

"From information gleaned in the preliminary investigations of the results of the Austin Air-Conditioned Village Project, we can safely predict that residential air conditioning is here to stay.

Colds Definitely Reduced

"Results have proved that for the Village occupants there is a saving of 22 woman-hours per month in cleaning as compared to a group of similar homes a few blocks away which were not air conditioned. In a similar comparison it is proved that the calorie content of the evening meal is 40% greater in the air-conditioned homes, and that heat rash in infants was completely eliminated and colds and other nasal problems definitely reduced. A complete analysis of the medical results will be available later.

'Thus, both the man of the house and the woman of the house have reason to approve air conditioning, the man because he gets roast beef instead of cold cuts, and the woman because of extra time, gained from tasks such as cleaning and cooking, to spend in more creative pursuits.

"The most important reason for having residential air conditioning is comfort . . . . comfort in which to enjoy the roast beef and the extra time.

Series of Tests Devised

"To provide more comfort we devised a series of tests to determine a definition of comfort . . . . a definition applicable to the twenty-two families in ACV. These tests indicate that comfort is a combination of the following factors: (1) Constant air movement, (2) Even humidity between 40% and 60% R.H. without wide variations even in this range and (3) Temperature between 75-78 degrees.

"Some families requested a lower temperature, but seemed happy with 75 degrees, unless they knew it was 75. All families complained of discomfort when exposed to a rapid change in humidity (as produced by evaporation from the coil in some equipment) and when we experimented with fan cycling.

"We are happy to report that with minor adjustments all air-conditioning equipment operated satisfactorily. We are confident that even these minor adjustments will be unnecessary when the dealer training programs now in operation have had a chance to produce results.

Operating Costs Low

"NAHB is happy with this, our first, experiment with applied research. We are happy, too, that this project proves to FHA that operating costs are low (half the houses were in the $100 per year bracket) and that it's not necessary to use operating costs as a factor in qualifying buyers. The elimination of this factor makes the Village a worthwhile project since lack of detailed knowledge about operating costs has been the greatest deterrent to widespread use of air-conditioning in speculative housing.

"The final results of the Village will assist NAHB in the execution of a builder training program which, when coupled with your program of dealer training and our common program of public education, will hasten the approach to our common goal—better homes for more Americans."

A final report will be published soon by Mr. Cole and NAHB.

TO RECEIVE ROYAL TILE GRANT—Paul H. Johnson, fourth-year student in the University of Texas' School of Architecture, has been selected to receive a $500 scholarship from the Royal Tile Manufacturing Company of Fort Worth, to aid in his fifth year studies. The award was announced by Edward L. Wilson, president of the Texas Architectural Foundation, the group which made the selection. Johnson, a native of Denver, Colo., is the first recipient of the grant, which is to be made annually to an outstanding student from one of Texas' five architectural schools.

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Austin Architect Named To State Board

Howard R. Barr, TSA-AIA, of the Austin firm of Kuehne, Brooks & Barr, has been appointed to the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners by Governor Allan Shivers. Above, Judge Lloyd Davidson of Austin is swearing in Mr. Barr, at right, and Charles K. Smith of Houston, center, as new Board members.

The Board is primarily concerned with administration of the Texas law for the licensing of plumbers. It consists of a master plumber, a journeyman plumber, an architect, and a sanitary engineer, all of whom must be state-licensed in their respective field; a commercial building contractor, and a home building contractor. Appointive terms are for six years.

Present members in addition to Mr. Barr and Mr. Smith are R. G. Hughes, Pampa, chairman; N. G. Henne, New Braunfels; J. C. Oliver, Stephenville; and Joe Bland, Austin.

The so-called "Texas Plan" for the licensing of plumbers has been widely acclaimed, and is being studied by other states and municipalities across the U.S.

General Electric Making New Model of "Weathertron", Air-Source Heat Pump

The General Electric Company's Weathertron is now being produced as a completely new line of packaged air-source heat pumps.

The new models feature a more compact size and greatly improved performance due to a more effective relationship between heating and cooling capacity. Key factor in the improved heating-cooling ratio is a unique modulated hermetic motor-compressor, designed specifically for heat pumps.

Heat pumps of the Weathertron air-source type use only electricity and air. In summer they pump heat and moisture from the home to the outdoors, leaving fresh, cool air in the home. In winter, they reverse themselves automatically, extracting heat from the outdoor air and pumping it indoor to heat the home.

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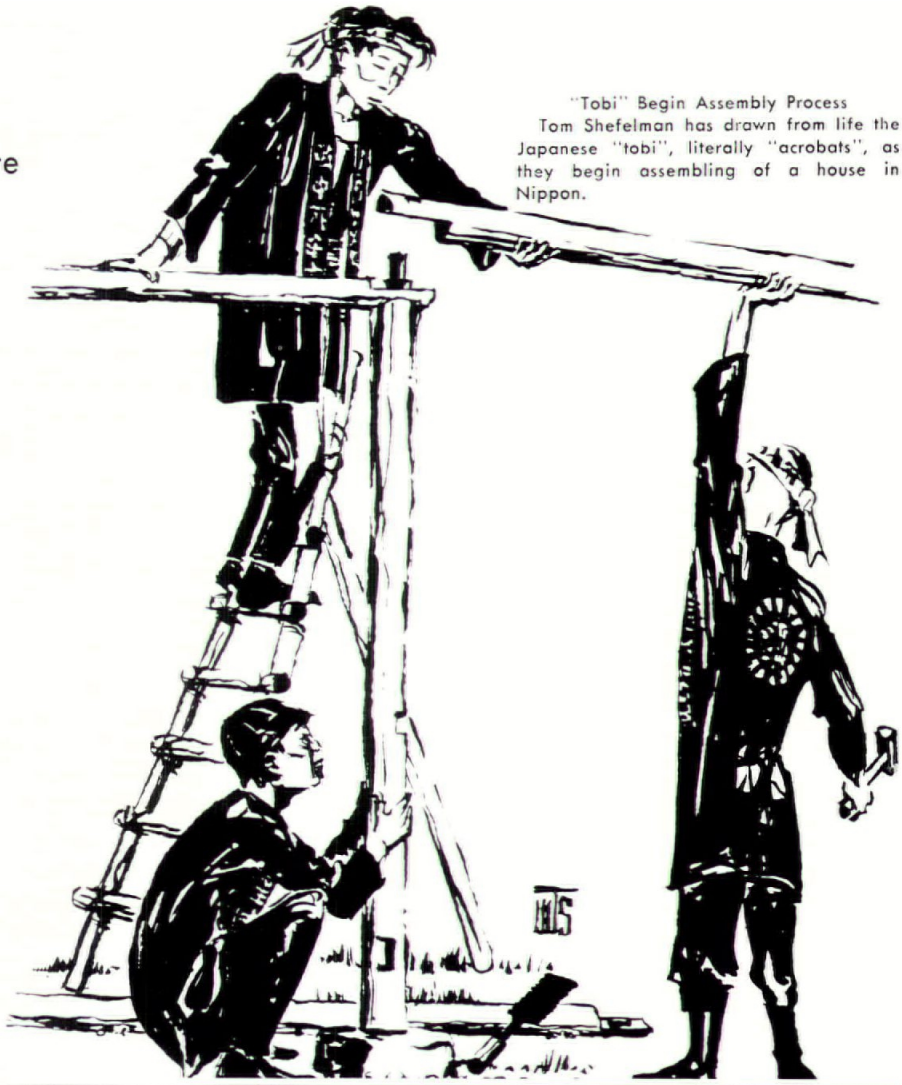
Impertinent Comments On Japanese Life And Architecture

This is the final instalment of a series of articles by Mr. Shefelman, which he has also illustrated.

In architecture there are still strong factors against change. These factors are the ways of thinking and customs which have given Japan's structures of all centuries a basic resemblance, a national character. A few examples follow:

In traditional Japanese building the "tsubo" or six-foot square is a basic module. All floor mats or "tatami" are 3 x 6 feet. Door paper, wood veneers come in 3 x 6 sizes. The bedding or "futons' 'are made in standard six-foot lengths. Lumber's most economical length is 12 feet. Architects, builders, owners and real estate men think of a house as well as land in terms of so many tsubo in area. For centuries architects and builders have been laying out their houses, temples and palaces on the tsubo grid. Frank Lloyd Wright more than 30 years ago was impressed by this modular thinking, so new in the eyes of his contemporaries, yet so ancient in Japan.



"Tobi" Begin Assembly Process
Tom Shefelman has drawn from life the Japanese "tobi", literally "acrobats", as they begin assembling of a house in Nippon.

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90% of Japan Is Wooded

No other highly developed civilization in the world has such a strong argument for such concentration upon wooden architecture as does Japan. Roughly 90 percent of her territory is wooded. Carpentry methods, passed from generation to generation, are not going to change radically for several more generations. The ballon frame, its two-by standard yard lumber sizes and the ten-penny nail are still foreign to the Japanese carpenter. The idea of "rough framing" covered by layers of finishing material is frowned upon as impure interior design. The simple wooden post and horizontal framing member, the thin plaster partitions, the sliding doors all divide up the interiors on the tsubo grid, as do the tatami. And the quality of "emptiness" is still pleasing to the Japanese eye.

Hand Planing Used

According to the drawings of the architect or the chief carpenter, the wood framing members are cut to fit together like furniture. The small lumber yard or a shelter on the site house this activity; and it takes around two weeks for the average size house, which is about 40 tsubo in floor area. Each member is cut, notched, keyed, shaped, planed and often polished before being carefully set aside for the assembly. Such loving care is mandatory because so many of the members are to be trim also. We have not yet seen sandpaper used. The famous beautiful finishes are achieved principally by hand planing. The planes are but wooden blocks with steel blades adjusted in the slot by hammer. At least one man on the job is perpetually busy keeping all blades razor sharp. Both planes and handsaws cut when pulled rather than pushed.

"Acrobats" Into Action

When the prefabrication is completed, the carpenters take a back seat while a special crew of "tobi" (a word meaning roughly "acrobat" in English) are called into action. They literally live up to their name as they begin the assembly process. The structural members of the small house fly together in a few hours and the roof of tile or tin is on the next day. What these skilled acrobats have then completed is an already finished looking product of crisp linear beauty.

At this stage of construction the Japanese nature assumes an interesting twist. Now it is time for matters of the spirits. The owner is the host. He furnishes food, sake and gifts of money, 500 to 1000 yen for the chief carpenter, smaller amounts for the other carpenters and workmen. The "tatemae" ceremony is held around boards set up as banquet tables. The chief carpenter climbs to the roof and offers sake and rice to the spirits or "kami." Paper, called kami also, bamboo and pine are left at the top for the prosperity, safety and long life of all concerned, owner and family as well as each workman and his family. When this basically Shinto ritual is completed, a feast is had by all.

"Kami" Ceremony

As heads clear during the days afterwards, the slower work of filling in between structural members and application of finished siding, flooring and ceilings gets underway. The bamboo lathing is centered on the wood posts and lintels for the plaster panels. On the outside grounds and stripping is readied for the thin cedar siding and battens. The tracks for sliding doors and windows, of course, are already milled into the horizontal framing. Here is that happy freedom of choice between solid panel and opening built into the design and structural system at its inception. Here is that light, airy, rectilinear and "contemporary" appearance, a tradition for centuries.

"Floating" Roofs

The hipped or gabled tile or tin roofs are heavy and generous with overhangs by contrast as dictated by the cold, rainy Japanese winters. At dusk it is an unforgettable sight in this crowded and hilly land to observe the living forms, these roofs, floating above the lantern-like bodies of the houses in complete balance with gravity. These dark shapes are indeed at home among the silhouetted dwarf trees and wooden fences.

Some people admire the crisp, empty interiors and call them Modrian. Some remember the roofs with glowing light patterns underneath, and say they are Organic. Whatever names people like to use, we are satisfied just to call it all Japanese.

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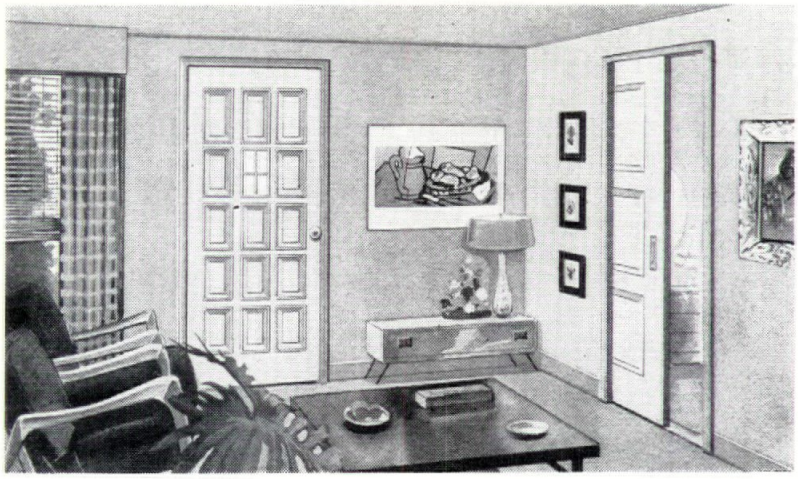

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Chrysler Airtemp Official Reviews Key Developments, Air-Conditioning Terms Used

Glenn Cobb of the regional Chrysler Airtemp office in Dallas has recently reviewed terms used in the air-conditioning field, and air-conditioning developments in the Southwest.

Mr. Cobb defines the important terms "air-cooled" and "packaged unit" as follows:

Air-cooled refrigeration—In air-conditioning, heat is absorbed by the refrigerant from the air being conditioned. The refrigerant vaporizes in the process, just as water absorbing heat from a fire turns into steam. In order to re-use the refrigerant, this heat must be passed on to some other substance so that the refrigerant will condense back into a liquid. In air-cooled refrigeration equipment, the compressed refrigerant is sent at high temperature through a condensing coil with outside air blowing over it. The heat passes into the outside air and the refrigerant condenses.

Packaged unit—A packaged unit contains all the components for air-conditioning inside a single cabinet, including compressor and cooling coil. There are a number of synonyms and near synonyms, such as:

1. Unitary equipment: This covers the entire field, including room air-conditioners.

2. Self-contained units: This is normally applied to units supplying summer air conditioning only, in sizes ranging upward from two tons of capacity.

3. Year-round units; these do the entire summer and winter job from a single cabinet. They contain both heating and refrigerating components.

Air-cooled (waterless) air conditioning, according to Mr. Cobb, has become increasingly important during the last several years because of unfavorable water conditions including shortages, high mineral content and attendant pipe-damaging mineral scale.

Waterless air-conditioning, he points out, was first produced on a full-scale basis by Chrysler Airtemp, which also holds the original patents on "packaged" air-conditioners.

Mr. Cobb said that since 1952, over 3,000 air-cooled commercial and residential installations with ratings of from 2 to 7½ horsepower, have been made in the Southwest with Chrysler Airtempt year-around systems.

There are some 500 radial commercial and industrial Chrysler installations in the Houston area. The Magnolia and Santa Fe buildings in Dallas are typical examples of large-scale Airtemp installations.

American Institute of Architects Receives Public Relations Award

The American Institute of Architects has been awarded a national certificate of public relations achievement by the American Association of Public Relations.

The award, in recognition of "the high merit of its public relations program," was presented to Anson B. Campbell and Walter M. Megronigle of Ketchum, Inc., public relations counsel for the AIA. Mr. Campbell is the AIA account executive and Mr. Megronigle is manager of the Public Relations Division of Ketchum, Inc.

Organizations in all parts of the United States and in practically every field of social and commercial activity vied for the awards, the "Oscars" of the public relations profession. The AIA won its award in the professional association category.

President's Letter (Continued)

Rewarding personal contacts and the interchange of information and ideas with other members of his profession are within the reach of every architect practicing in the state of Texas.

Our national AIA director, Albert S. Golemon; our executive secretary, John G. Flowers, Jr., and I have already visited most of the chapters of the Texas region this spring.

Our principal objective has been to serve as a medium of exchange of ideas between the chapters about this very important problem: how to secure active participation in the achievement of the objectives listed above by every architect qualified to practice in Texas.

The best means of achieving participation is through membership in the American Institute of Architects.

The several TSA-AIA chapters have different problems to some degree, but this has been observed: The active chapters have a membership which includes the largest percentage of practicing architects in their area. These TSA-AIA members are doing outstanding and distinctive work; they enjoy the confidence of the construction industry; they are providing leadership in public affairs; and they are directing all of their group and personal activities toward the objective of making our profession of ever-increasing service to society.

How to Plan for Lasting Beauty and Safety on Steps, Landings

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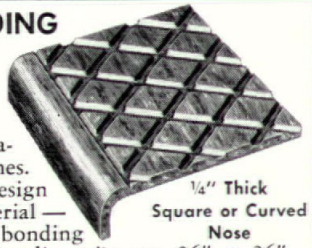

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Orientation, Patios, Materials, Insulation Important "ACV" Factors

In Austin, the capitol city of Texas where "Air-Conditioned Village," the first mass experiment in air conditioned living for the average income family is located, every movement of old man sun is of the utmost importance.

Eighteen builders pooled their efforts under guidance of the National Home Builders Association in constructing 22 "ACV" houses utilizing every major type of year-round air conditioning unit. The object was to prove residential air conditioning is here for the average family at a price they can afford to pay. All builders were required to build $12,000 houses plus cost of land, to have 1,200 minimum square feet of floor space, and to install two-ton heating-cooling units.

For Temperature Control

At that point, however, the sun took over, for architects had to consider the sun first in designing the houses. This is how the architects and builders went about controlling the sun in the summer and utilizing it in the winter, for year-round temperature control and resulting family comfort:

1. They oriented houses and window areas with respect to the lot and the path of the sun through the day, or through the sky. A house doesn't have to face the street squarely if it is also looking straight into the afternoon sun. They turned the houses a little and cut off some of that sun. Window areas face north or south where possible and shading is provided for windows in east and west walls.

2. Roof overhangs and awnings were planned to shade walls and glass areas in the summer and expose a portion of them for solar heating in the winter.

3. Trellises, screen walls, fences and shrubs have been used to create a private patio area outside a west or east-facing bedroom or living room, to shade windows from sun and provide outdoor living space at the same time.

Masonry Construction Helps

4. Masonry construction has been used in many houses to aid cooling.

5. All types of insulation have been utilized in foundations, walls, and roofs, including mineral wool and aluminum foil in various thicknesses and forms.

6. And even the colors received consideration. Light colors and white have been used to reflect the sun's rays and help in the task of cooling.

"Architecture—USA", New Film Report Available This Summer Through AIA

The American Institute of Architects, national organization of the architectural profession, has announced the release of a film report on contemporary architecture in America. *Architecture—U.S.A.* is a sound presentation of 140 color slides showing current architectural trends in homes, schools, offices, factories, churches, and other building types.

The film is the work of Ralph E. Myers, A.I.A., of the firm of Kivett and Myers, Kansas City, Missouri. In collecting photographs for the film, Mr. Myers travelled more than 50,000 miles and edited more than 10,000 color photographs by some of the nation's top architectural photographers.

Initial impetus was given to the project by a grant from the Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship of the New York Chapter, A.I.A., for "advanced study in a specialized field of architectural investigation." As a result of his work on *Architecture — U.S.A.*, Mr. Myers has been awarded a second grant for additional work.

Runs 26 Minutes

Architecture — U.S.A. has a running time of 26 minutes and may be shown on standard 16 mm. sound movie equipment. It has been planned for presentation before service clubs, school assemblies, women's groups and similar organizations. Inquiries regarding availability of the film should be addressed to John G. Flowers, Jr., TSA, Perry-Brooks Building, Austin.

Among the 62 architects and architectural firms represented in the film are the following members of TSA-AIA: Donald Barthelme & Associates, Houston; O'Neil Ford, San Antonio; Claude E. Hooten, Houston, and MacKie & Kamrath, Houston.

The film's running time, 26 minutes, has been planned to make it suitable for presentation on television. All material has been cleared for television terial has been cleared for television.

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This versatile stone has a natural warmth of color, ranging from cream to golden tints. It offers architects a wide latitude of design and decorative possibilities and at the same time gives them a building material that is unsurpassed for enduring strength. And because its natural beauty can't be duplicated — because it is always contemporary and always in good taste, it is a stone of unusual merit for residential, commercial and institutional buildings.

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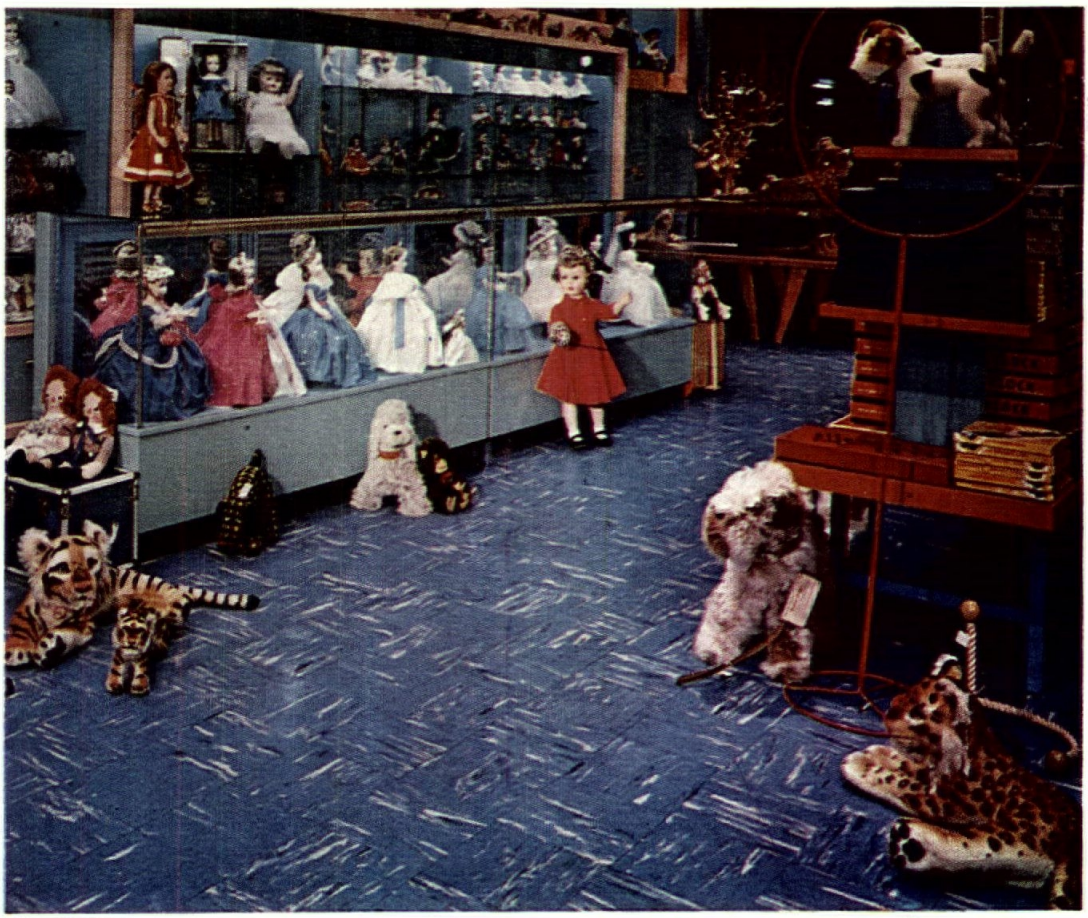

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